Commission to probe Tehelka revelations

3654. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Commission has been set up under the Chairmanship of Justice Venkataswami to probe the Tehelka.com revelations on corruption in defence deals;

(b) if so, the details of the Commission and its terms of references; and

(c) by when the probe is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, have appointed a Commission of Inquiry consisting of a single member, namely, Shri Justice K. Venkataswami, a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, with the following terms of reference, *vide* Notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on 24.3.2001;

(i) to inquire whether the transactions relating to Defence and other procurements referred to in the said videotapes and transcripts have been carried out in terms of the prescribed procedures and the imperatives of national security;

(ii) to inquire whether in any of the aforesaid procurement transactions, illicit gains have been made by persons in public office, individuals, and any other organisation as alleged, and if so, to what extent;

(iii) to suggest action that may be taken in respect of persons who may be found responsible by the Commission for their

acts of commission and /or omission in respect of the transactions referred to in sub-clause (a) above;

(iv) to inquire into all aspects relating to the making and publication of these allegations and any other matter which arises from or is connected with or incidental to any act, omission or transaction referred to in sub-clauses (a) and (b) above.

The Commission is to submit its report within a period of four months from the date of publication of the Notification in the Official Gazette.

Purchase of Russian Ammunition

3655. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian made Krasnopol laser guided ammunition worth crores of rupees were purchased despite the fact that these failed the tests during Kargil conflict;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the procurement of the Krasnopol shells;

(c) if so, whether any under-hand deal in their acquisition has been noticed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) 155 mm Krasnopol ammunition was evaluated in both desert and high altitude areas and the ammunition was accepted for introduction into service only after it was accepted by all